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Issue #105 Sacramento August 1987

RCDC Addresses Anti-Gay Voilence

by DAVID MARCUS

Two radically different views of violence directed against the Gay and Lesbian Community emerged at the River City Democratic Club's open forum during their July monthly meeting.

Carmen Vazquez, a community organizer for the San Francisco based Community United Against Violence spoke on the services her organization provides, and gave an overview of the problems the Bay Area is experiencing. In stark contrast, two local law enforcement officials painted a relatively tranquil picture for the greater Sacramento area.

Sacramento City Police Chief Jack Kearns, along with Captain Robert Benton, also of the city police department, indicated, that as far as they are aware, "There doesn't appear to be a tremendous problem (in Sacramento)."

Captain Benton acknowledged immediately that they might not be aware of the extent of anti-gay violence here but that based on the reports he sees, there is no more than about one incident a month. "We get a few reports," said Benton "but they are usually difficult to track down. Unless the victim specifically indicates that he or she believes the incident was a gay issue, *and* that gets into the report, we really have no way of knowing."

Following Benton's remarks, a lively question-and-answer period resulted in Chief Kearns expressing his concern that if there is a problem, persons who are victimized by anti-gay aggression should let the police know.

Kearns acknowleged that there hasn't been any formal research and that maybe it was time for an extensive survey to ascertain the extent of anti-gay violence in Sacramento. He also requested that persons in attendance at the meeting "get the word out" about the police departments designated liason to the gay and lesbian community, Deputy Chief Lee Dohm.

On the issue of anti-gay problems within the police department itself, Captain Benton discussed the sensitivity training all officers are receiving, and the process by which complaints regarding officers behavior can be addressed.

Carmen Vazquez described a much more violent picture of the situation in the San Francisco Bay Area, and noted that she believed that the Sacramento Area was not far behind. She stated in part, that gay communities have not historically enjoyed favorable relationships with those who are supposed to "protect and serve". Because of this, she believes violent events directed against gays and lesbians tend to go under-reported.

Vazquez cited statistics for the Bay Area that included a 50 % increase of incidents reported over the

See Violence on pg. 4

GLORIA ALLRED:

Attorney As Political Activist

by DELL RICHARDS

At a time when politicians, lawyers and others in the U.S. are scurrying from the issue of AIDS, Gloria Allred, 45, is jumping into the middle of the fight.

In a case which many lawyers wouldn't touch, she is defending Paul Jasperson's right to use Jessica's Nail Salon — an establishment which denied him service because he had AIDS. It is typical of the type of case Allred often takes.

Petite and strikingly beautiful, Allred is one of the most outspoken defenders of civil rights in the U.S. One of the most famous attorneys in the country, she has a flair for publicity that gets her almost constant media attention.

"Victims should not have to suffer in silence," Allred said. "Public opinion can help make change. Laws can change. Public officials are more aware but judges read newspapers, too."

In 1981, she gave California State Senator John Schmidt a chastity belt when the conservative Republican chaired hearings on abortion. After he called her a "slick butch lawyeress," she slapped him with a $10 million libel suit which she later won.

Earlier, she strung a clothesline full of diapers across former California Governor Jerry Brown's office when she heard he was going to veto a strong child-support payment law. He eventually signed it.

Whether publicity made the dif-

See Allred on pg. 5

Photo by LINDA MACALUSO
From left: John Batchelor, Vernon Mitchell, Gloria Allred and Mark Tullai at the Gay Pride Parade in West Hollywood.

Allred Wins Case for Sacramento Man

by DELL RICHARDS

Well-known feminist attorney, Gloria Allred, recently won a discrimination case for a Sacramento man.

Local dance instructor and theater promoter John Batchelor, 31, was visiting Southern California in December 1985, when he and two gay friends went shopping at Boy's Market in plush Marina Del Rey. While in the store, someone announced over the P.A. system "Faggots, get out of the market and don't come back."

Insulted by the remark, Batchelor and his friends, Vernon Mitchell and Mark Tullai, approached the night manager to complain. During the discussion, another employee yelled "Faggot, go back to San Francisco."

After getting nowhere with Boy's Market officials, the three men sought help from Gloria Allred. Using the state's civil rights act which

See Batchelor on pg. 5

AIDS Case Points Out Problems

by DELL RICHARDS

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the No. 1 health concern in the U.S. Yet, given the Puritan heritage of the U.S., an almost medieval debate rages over how to handle the crisis. While the U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop fights for safe sex education, conservatives like Phyllis Schlaffly demand celibacy before marriage, monogamy after and no talk about sex at all — safe or otherwise — and the administration announces measures to test people for the virus.

Meanwhile, the AIDS virus continues to spread and people with AIDS — whether they're gay or straight — find themselves outcast. While San Francisco has become a shelter for people with AIDS, even cities like West Hollywood — which recently elected a gay mayor — are having problems coping with the disease. West Hollywood resident Paul Jasperson, 35, is a typical example of what can happen.

Jasperson had just made an appointment for a pedicure at Jessica's Nail Salon in West Hollywood, when he stopped to chat with friends in the shop. A

See Jasper on pg. 5

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Special Program Honors Pillars Founder

by L.D. BACA

Pillars, Sacramento's homegrown networking group, celebrates its fifth anniversary at the Sierra Inn on August 28, at 6 p.m. The customary no-host cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. around the hotel's pool, followed by a banquet in the Redwood Ballroom and a special program honoring Larry Hoover, the group's founder.

"The group just took on a life of its own," acccording to Hoover, the man generally credited wih having first suggested the informal gathering of friends over dinners as a social alternative to bars. Every other Friday since seventeen people first met at a downtown nightspot then known as K Street, Pillars (short for tongue-in-cheek moniker "Pillars of The Community") has played host to between fifty and two hundred people (predominantly men) interested in enjoying established friendships and making new ones.

Hoover attributes the group's longevity and success to a grass roots formula: "You're a member if you show up," says Larry. "We have no dues (other then the $12 which includes everything-but-the-drinks price tag on the bi-weekly dinners), no formal organization or by-laws; the closest we come to a newsletter is our quarterly calendar. "The point of this near chaotic informality, says founder Hoover, is to keep the focus social and community-oriented; in short, to meet some people's needs. That it has managed to do so for five years in spite of an ever-changing constituency attests to the soundness of the concept.

Pillars, as a matter of one of its very few policies, does not endorse issues or sponsor events on behalf of other causes. The group nevertheless serves as a hub for community information. Representatives from any gay-supportive group or individuals with announcements of interest to the gay community are encouraged to deliver brief messages, solicit support for their group,and distribute literature at any Pillars meeting.

This inclusive style has yielded a number of important benefits. Newcomers to Sacramento often find Pillars to be an excellent way to

See Pillars on pg. 16

MGW OBITUARY

OBITUARY POLICY: MGW Newspaper is honored to commemorate the lives of our readers, and friends or relatives of our readers, with an announcement. We ask that friends or relatives provide us with information in person (not by mail or over the phone), not more than 250 words. There is no charge for this service.

Al Adami

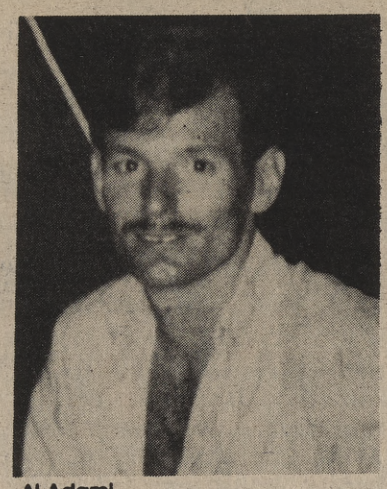
Alvin Keith Adami was born on March 8, 1951 in San Francisco and died on July 2, 1987 in Sacramento.

Al spent most of his years growing up in the Bay Area until he served as an MP in the Army from 1971 to 1972. He returned to civilian life to obtain his AA degree from Long Beach City College in 1974. He then attended San Francisco State, and graduated from San Jose State in 1976, having earned a B.S. degree with Distinction in Occupational Therapy. He then moved to Sacramento, where he worked as an Occcupational Therapist for American River hospital and other Eskaton facilities for seven years. His last job was as Client Services Coordinator for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

When Al died, he was not alone: Joe, Elizabeth, and Ogunquit (the cat) were at his side; Anna and Jim were there shortly before and after.

Al is survived by his biological family, including his mother, Jessie W. Batt, of Torrance, brothers William Paul Batt of Hayward and Buddy Wayne Batt, of Midwest City, Oklahoma, sister Karen Mendez of San Jose, and aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. His nuclear family included his lover, companion,best friend and caregiver, Joe Heller, his Maine coon cats Ogunquit and Matinicus, Elizabeth Harrison, and Anna Harrison.

Hopefully without excluding anyone, we want to thank all of the emotional and practical support friends from Hand to Hand, the people with AIDS, the community members, and the Priests from St. Francis who loved and cared for him over the two years of his illness, including in no special order Jim F., Lind W., Don C. Jami Lee, Dan C., Santiago, Carolyn N., Rick R., Rojin, Darling V., David P., Dick J., Terrell T., Loren, John H., John A., David C., Glenn M., Margaret A., David M., Gene L., Royuce, Chris Y., Bonnie G., Connie G., Joe G., JB, Anna H.,



Al Adami

Jackson P., both Jim H.'s, Levi, Bill T., Stan H., Linda T., Bill N., Lisa B., Father Tom, Father Mel, Father John, Kathleen M., Rudy G., Elizabeth M., Kate G., Gina W., Gaye O., Art M., and Pete W.

We also want to thank all of the health care workers who cared for Al: the late Dr. Harvey Thompson, Dr. Sandy Pomerantz, the staffs of Mercy and Sutter Hospitals, Medical Personnel Pool, Option Care, Dr Art Katz, and Pucci's Pharmacy. They were all wonderful.

Al loved to dance; to touch, hug, and cuddle; to cook, and bake — at which he was a perfectionist; shopping at Macy's; bright and wild colors; camping at Fife's. He had a special ability to care for people who were physically challenged long before his own illness and throughout it.

The chronology of Al's involvement with AIDS, both professional and personal, should give some indication of his strength, determination, compassion, and caring. In April, 1983, he trained with the first Sacramento AIDS Foundation Hand to Hand Volunteer group, and stayed active for the next four years, including two years after he was diagnosed with AIDS himself. He worked intensively with people with AIDS and as a Hand to Hand volunteer, facilitator and trainer for the next two yers. On July 1, 1985 he was diagnosed with the first occurence of Pneumocystis Pneumonia; he spent 9 days in hospital, returning to what was to become his and Joe's home, to recouperate. There were questions about his being able to return to hospital work as an O.T., and in September he was hired at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation as full-time client services coordinator.

In December 1985 he was readmitted to the hospital for his second episode of Pneumocystis Pneumonia. He spent Christmas in hospital, but was home for New Years, and returned briefly to his job at the AIDS Foundation, but he got sick again and was rehospitalized in February 1986 for treatment of malnutrition and dehydration. He returned to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation in March, 1986, but found he was unable to sustain the regular 40 hour plus work week he wished to do, so he went on disability, but continued to volunteer 20 to 30 hours a week to the Client Services Staff and the Hand to Hand Project. He also took special time to visit other people with AIDS who were homebound or in the hospital. At times he would be too ill to get in to work, but would work by phone from his and Joe's home. In July, 1986, he took a trip to Hawaii! In September, 1986, he was one of seven people who received a Hand to Hand Award for Special Services to Persons with AIDS. In the winter of 1986 he was admitted to the hospital three times for mental confusion and Mycobacterium Avium Pneumonia. After each hospitalization, he cleared, and returned to Hand to Hand trainings and support meetings. In February 1987 he was admitted to the hospital again with further complications of AIDS, and returned home to round-the-clock nurses until he and Joe decided the nurses were no longer needed, and along with a cadre of dedicated Hand to Hand Volunteers they "went it alone". For the period of Holy Week and Passover, Joe and Al packed an ice chest full of drugs and an IV pole in the car, and took off for a vacation in the Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas. Al again returned to facilitate Hand to Hand Meetings, and in April, 1987 he received a four-year heart-shaped diamond service pin for his Hand to Hand Activities.

Al's last public appearance was the Memorial Day weekend AIDS vigil, at which time he received a public ovation.

Mass was held for Al at St. Francis Church on July 17, 1987.

We will miss Al; we loved him a lot, and he loved us too. He was a very special, very strong, and very giving man.

Thank you Joe Heller, for showing us all the meaning of love, commitment, honor, and caring. With you there, Al never had to be afraid of being alone, in pain, or uncomfortable, and was able to enjoy a very full, happy, and good life, despite his physical limitations and illness.

Elizabeth Harrison

Dr. Thomas Waddell

Dr. Thomas Waddell, 49, died of AIDS, Saturday, July 11, 1987 in his San Francisco home.

He had been a physician, U.S. Army Captain and decathlon competitor in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. San Francisco was his hometown.

Known principally by the news media as the doctor who founded the Gay Games and battled the Supreme Court to keep the name Gay Olympics, he was known worldwide.

Dr. Waddell quit his job as city physician at Central Emergency last year when he learned he had acquired immune deficiency syndrome. He was among the San Francisco gay men who began treatment with the experimental AIDS drug AZT in February, his strength already waning.

He mortgaged his Mission District home to help pay attorney's costs to take the issue of Gay Olympics to the U.S. Supreme Court in March. He pled the case stating that, "The police can have their Olympics, Armenians have their Olympics, dogs have their Olympics but if you're gay, you cannot."

The Supreme Court rejected Dr. Waddell's appeal.

The Disease was diagnosed in August at the same time his Gay Games II were being held at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco drawing 3,500 athletes from 17 countries.

It was in Mexico City I met "Doc Tom" for the first time. Working as a radio reporter for a St. Louis based NBC station at the Olympics, I watched this strong, gutsy man compete in one of the toughest, most grueling of all Olympic events. He was a proud representative of the U.S.A.

It was in Mexico City that he first got the idea of the Gay Games, even though the support group, San Francisco Arts and Athletes, was not formed until 1981. He had a dream!

San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein gave him the Harvey Milk Award for community service, and he was featured on several national television shows for his work.

His wife, Sara Lewinstein was one of his strongest supporters. They met at the first Gay Games and were married in February 1985. Their daughter Jessica, will be 4 in August. They worked together on the Games even thought they lived apart. They loved each other very strongly and shared the experiences of the world.

Dr. Tom was a tall man with a graying beard. He was a healer. He was a physician. He was a strong man who did much in his short lifetime to tear down some of the walls of bigotry in America and the world.

Dr. Tom Waddell will be missed!

— J. Edward Jones

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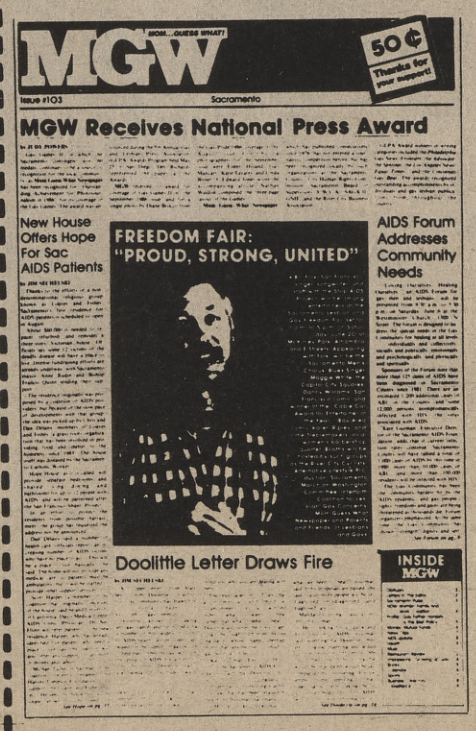
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MGW ENTERTAINMENT

San Francisco Opera Presents "Porgy And Bess"

by WAYNE R. ANDERSON

No American opera has yet achieved anything like the esteem of George Gershwin's 1935 **"Porgy and Bess,"** yet performances of even this work are rare. The ever-timid Met took 50 years to get to it, and even the much more adventurous (at least before McEwen's bland era) SFO has only presented traveling Houston Grand Opera productions outside of its regular seasons in 1976, with a revival this summer.

Despite its initial success on Broadway, "Porgy and Bess" is a true opera, not a Broadway musical. Unlike musicials, it is through-composed with arias and recitatives, having almost no spoken dialogue. The subtle score is rich in jazz/blues inspiration, yet the roles call for voices of operatic proportions.

The action takes place in Catfish Row in Charleston, S.C. in the 1930s. Although the central plot is about the love affair between the crippled Porgy and the sexy Bess, the opera is really about the people who live in the poverty of the black ghetto. Written in an age where black contralto Marian Anderson had to go to Europe for acceptance, when blacks in the movies were portrayed as servants (child-brained or super-loyal) whose importance in life came from their services of whites, when the public violence of the KKK made sure that blacks knew their true place in this society, this opera was something of a revelation. In it, blacks are subtle,complex human beings having the same hopes, disappointments, loves, tragedies, and weaknesses as whites. What a shock to learn that Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben cared about anything more than pancakes or converting rice! The opera is dated in some ways (the language sounds old-fashioned, "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin" makes Porgy sound like a stereotypical poor-but-happy black), and the ending, with Porgy taking off in his goat-pulled cart to find the runaway Bess in New York, is a little hard to swallow. But the humanity of these people is what comes through.

Unfortunately, the performance did not always live up to the opera. Terry Cook captured Porgy's optimism without seeming a simp, but his rich voice was dry at the top. Carmen Balthorp's powerful voice soared through Bess' music, yet exaggerated poses made her seem like a parody of a slutty streetwalker. Kriss St. Hill's "Sportin' Life" wasn't very sportin'. A slight effeminacy made him seem more like a tolerated eccentric than the link with the fast glamorous world "outside". He sang in an operatic style but with a wail on top. Theresa Hamm made the most of Serena's "My Man's Gone Now," but William Bradley-Johnson as Bess' brutal lover Crown was more an over-weight thug than a violent but very sexy man. The rest sang adequately but not outstandingly, while Richard Bradshaw conducted.

A serious flaw was that most of the words could not be understood, which was especially unfortunate because Gershwin's recitatives are so well constructed to fit the language. I hate to suggest this for an English-language opera, but supertitles would have helped a lot if the singers could not master their diction.

Some of the choreography was too Broadway-slick, clashing with the naturalism of the rest, while the effective sets suggested the drabness of life in Catfish Row.□

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MGW DISC

Two New Releases

by AUDREY MERTZ

"Robin Flower and The Bleachers"
Robin Flower
Flying Fish Records

Babies wearing glasses decorate the cover of the latest Robin Flower album, and "Babies with Glasses" is the opening song. Inspired by the hilarous appearance of her friend's baby, Robin wrote this charming piece. "She's so small, she can't talk at all, so how'd you know she needed glasses anyway?" "They think I'm full of wisdom, so I'll probably a baby thinker in philosophy."

Two instrumental numbers show off the delightful, upbeat bluegrass/jazz style of the six women — on violin, mandolin, guitar, bass, drums and congas. Two songs have unlikely themes for this style of music — "The War Song" and "Black Empty Spaces." The album is dedicated to "the continuance of life on this beautiful planet." "Do more than pray for peace." Those two songs are consciousness-raising, with subtle call to action.

"The Midnight Touch of My Lover" is a sweet, soothing song, and "Talking to Yourself" is engaging and joyful. The songs were all written by Robin and are sung by Robin and Crystal Reeves, except for "Talking to Yourself" by Crystal.

"Can't Hold Back"
Holly Near
Redwood Records

How bold! Holly Near put out a very different record here, aiming at mainstream pop music. She collaborated with many people in producing this album and includes as guest vocalists Kenny Loggins, Bonnie Raitt and Linda Tillery. The explosive opener is "How Bold," about passion and heart-break." These are all Holly's love songs, and several are soft and sweet. The title song "Don't Hold Back" is energetic seduction. Remember the remarkable effect this had when she sang it at the Crest Theatre in March? The erotic Holly is everywhere in this music and in the pictures on the album. Catch the amusing "Boney Jaw Baby" with fast tempo "I'm a liar, I'm a liar, I'm a liar on fire for my boney jaw baby." Treat yourself to this album!

These records are available at Lioness Books or through Ladyslipper Inc. P.O.Box 3130, Durham NC 27705. Ladyslipper provides a free catalog of hundreds of recordings of women's music, gay men's music, songbooks, etc.□

Women's Chorus To Debut At Palms Concert

Women's singing will fill the Palms Public Playhouse in Davis on Sunday afternoon, August 9, at the Summer Musicale supporting the Davis Sacramento Gold Rush Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team. Soloists will be Ellen Alford, Jan Larsson and Marcia Sellers. Vicki Bailey will entertain as emcee.

The lesbian barbershop quartet of San Francisco — Alternative Measures — will be featured. The local quartet — The Treble Makers — will do a set and then both will harmonize together.

Mag's Merry Minstrels will present madrigals from the Renaissance. The new, twenty-member Sacramento Women's Chorus will appear for the first time, to close the show.

Tickets may be obtained at Lioness Bookstore in Sacramento or Barney's in Davis. Cost is $5 in advance or $6 at the door, at 2:00 p.m.□

Sorry Folks!

Lil Sibley MGW's Film Reviewer is on vacation this month. Her column "In Reel Life" will be resume in next month's issue.

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MGW ART

"Drawings" Gallery To Open Soon

"Himovitz/Jensen Gallery: Works on Paper", Sacramento's first gallery devoted exclusvely to drawings will open in September at 1729 L Street. The new gallery is a joint effort of Michael Himovitz and Mary Jensen.

Anyone who has walked along the shore, picked up a twig and drawn in the sand, will understand the basic human urge to use line as a means to conceptualize and clarify. Of all the arts, drawing is the most basic and provides a means through which the artist explores and experiments.□

A small exhibit of bicycles from the collection of Jacques Graber will be on display at the Himovitz/Soloman Gallery from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday August 16-30. This collection is of bicycles dated form the 1800s to the 1950s. It is being displayed in celebration of the Bicycle Classic stage races coming to Sacramento.

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Hair We Are

What You See Is What You Get

by MARTY KURZ

Ascend the stairs, open the door to Hair We Are, and enter into an exquisitely appointed yet warm salon that caters to the total person. A sweeping glance will assure you that an an establishment so dedicated to its own appearance will treat yours with equal attention and finesse. Ease into the velvet sofa, take in the antique furnishings blended with angular modern designs, the plush burgandy carpet, ceiling fans, plants, and sunlight streaming in the windows, and know that this is the place to bolster your appearance for summertime showing.

Hair We Are has served a broad spectrum of the gay and straight communities in Sacramento for the past 10 years. Owner Carmel Panvino left a nursing career in search of a field yielding more immediate results, and found it in hair design. A change in hair color that enhances skin tone, makes someone more vibrant and lifts the personality, gives Carmel the job satisfaction he sought. On opening Hair We Are, he combined a strong business acumen with an equally strong sense of style, current fashions, and how to apply "the latest" to each individual personality.

Styling services at Hair We Are are provided by a team carefully screened and selected by Carmel. Currently, Marvella, Suzanne and Julie — each with more than 10 years cosmetology experience — comprise the cadre serving patrons along with Carmel. The team specializes in creating a total picture that harmonizes personality, body structure, skin tone, hair color and style to best reflect the strengths of each person. Through professional skin care and make-up analyses, and carefully crafted hair styling, the staff at Hair We Are works its magic. As Carmen puts it, customers transform "from okay to terrific" during a visit.

Carmel reports that using perms for styling as well as convenience, color highlights for effect as well as coverage, and longer hair are currently in vogue. Sebastian In ternational has designated Hair We Are an Artistic Center, an achievement shared by only a few salons in the country. As an Artistic Center, the staff participates in two-way communication about the latest trends in hair and skin care.

Each customer leaves the salon and descends the stairs filled with confidence created by an enhanced appearance that complements the personality. There's also the satisfaction of knowing that Hair We Are stands ready to update the best in the inner and outer person by continuing to apply contemporary styling to each individual and body make-up. Just as the salon upgrades and polishes its own image, it offers the same gift to each of its customers. A visit to Hair We Are creates a person whose appearance reflects his/her inner reality and allows lovers, friends and associates to get what they see.□

Photos by DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN

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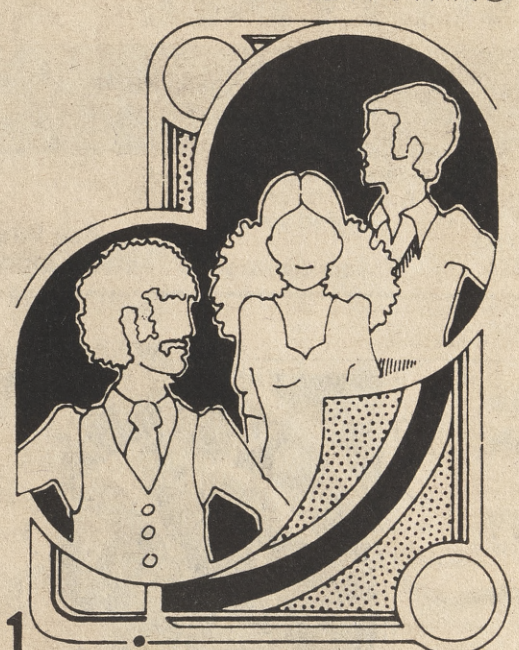

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No More Boring McDLTs For Lunch

by RICK WHITNAH

"It's Ambrose HEATH...not H-E-A-L-T-H-T!! This unfortunate error caused two portly potential first customers to miss out on Sacramento's most unique new sandwich shop. Opened in January 1986, the shop at 9th & J streets, downtown, is gradually being discovered by discerning lunch-goers.

Ambrose Heath was a humorous food writer for the *Manchester Times* in England in the 1930s. Though now deceased, his culinary quips provided at least part of the inspiration for owner Paul Nicholson to open this refreshing oasis in a somewhat seedy part of downtown.

Paul and partner Pedro Berduzco have created an inviting white and green garden, as light and airy as a patio. There is ample seating, many with window view. Shelves abound with homey-looking jars of sun-dried tomatoes, multi-colored peppers, artichoke hearts, and fine olive oils, hinting at exciting sandwich fixings.

No ordinary sandwiches these! The ever-changing menu board offers such inspirations as Roast Chicken with pan-fried Eggplant, Roasted Peppers and Chili Butter; Delta Crayfish Tails with Bay Shrimp and Guacamole; and homemade Meatloaf with Tomatoes, Onion Relish and fresh Basil.

At this time of year, lucky customers are treated to accompanyments of fresh herbs and vegetables from Nicholson's own Delta garden in Courtland. (Rumor has it the stately Victorian house is haunted, perhaps by the spirit of Ambrose himself whispering secret sandwich recipes in the night!)

The only things that haunt Ambrose Heath are the perpetually-cheerful Paul and Pedro, tirelessly preparing homemade corn relishes or kumquat chutneys to go with special sandwiches. All sandwiches are prepared on sourdough rolls made especially for them by the family-owned Sciambra French Bakery in Napa Valley.

All the selections in the bi-weekly menu sound so interesting, it's difficult to choose. However, some favorites included an Egg Frittata with tomatoes, zucchini and summer herbs. The Frittata was moist, freshly made and garnished with opal basil and squash blossoms. Another big seller was a tender, poached King Salmon with two-cucumber salad, and a lemony dill dressing. One sleeper that proved a bit rich for my taste was a baked Sweet Ham with Gouda Cheese, pickled Red Cabbage and whipped Honey Mustard. My hands-down choice was a hearty and earthy BBQ Chicken Eggplant, roasted peppers and sun-dried tomatoes. Most selections are garnished with crispy spinach which seems to hold up better with often assertive flavor of the sandwiches. Some customers are put-off by the liberal use of imported olive oils. They needn't be. This low calorie/cholesterol oil makes a refreshing alternative to heavy mayo often glopped on deli sandwiches.

Due apparently to frequent requests, Ambrose Heath has also added some exciting summer salads for the lighter lunch-goer. A spicy Roast Turkey with roasted red peppers, chilis, black beans, sun-dried tomatoes, cilantro and sesame vinegarette seems to salute the Southwest. Another nice choice was the salad of Mastiaccelli Pasta with zucchini, salami, red onion, spinach and Roma tomato dressing. For the vegetarian, their version of a classic Italian lunch was a delight; sliced ripe tomatoes layered with mozzerella and avocado garnished with opal basil, cracked peppercorns and olive oils. Another favorite was an intriguing mix of jicama, ruby grapefruit, and toasted tofu with a mint vinagrette.

Can't tear yourself away from the office? No problem. An hour's notice and four-sandwich minimum will deliver a red checker-lined basket to your door; no delivery charge. And for a special touch, Paul includes a suprise treat of freshly-picked fruit from his orchard.

No time for a sandwich? You can also pop in for a variety of gourmet ice creams supplied by Mendocino Ice Cream Co. Choices include French Vanilla Bean, a subtle English Chocolate Mint, Raspberry, and a very smooth and refreshing Lime Sorbet. (95¢ single: $1.75 double).

It might seem unfortunate that Ambrose Heath is located in a somewhat rundown looking part of town, but this fan thinks it's worth the trouble to search out a parking space and fend off an occasional panhandler to partake of the best sandwich in Sacramento (and possibly the known world!). Owner Nicholson likes the contrast of the area, and if he has the time, he can fascinate you with tales of his travels on the Orient Express, from pre-Khomeni Iran to the jungle temples of Burma, or guarding the British Embassy in Paris, to his stint on a North Sea Oil derrick off the Norway Coast.

Considering the size of the place and the complexity of the sandwiches, service is generally speedy and always cheerful. Prices from $3.50 to $4.75. A Soho Natural Soda can accompany your sandwich as well as a mineral water or fresh fruit juices.

Ambrose Heath Sandwiches: 9th and J Streets, Sacramento, 448-4526.

Food: 4½
Atmosphere: 3
Service : 4

5 Star Rating System
5 Outstanding
4 Excellent
3 Average
2 Below Average
1 Poor

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Point of departure: Front Street Dock in Old Sac.
Boarding Time: 10 p.m.
Departure Time: 10:30 p.m.
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Employment

Advertising Sales Rep. for this paper. Must be highly motivated, know Sac. community, sharpdresser, good natured, dependable. Commission. Call MGW 441-NEWS.

Part-time landscape installation person. Previous experience desirable. Apply in person please. FLOWERS, Folsom Blvd. at 46th St. Sac. 732-2016

Scheduling/Administrative Coordinator for STOP AIDS Project. Position serves as office manager and supervises volunteers. Must be able to type 40 w.p.m. $1,100 to $1,167 month. Apply by August 15: STOP AIDS Project, Lambda Community Fund, 1931 L St, Sac 85814. No phone calls. EOE/AA employer

Volunteer Recruitment/Training Coordinator for STOP AIDS Project. Responsible for recruitment, training and motivation of all volunteers. Qualifications include superb communication, motivational skills, experience in recruiting, motivating volunteers, public speaking, preparation, execution of interesting and innovative training programs, problem resolution, ability to meet targets and schedules for volunteer participation. $1,100 to $1,167 month. Apply by August 15, STOP AIDS Project, Lambda Community Fund, 1931 L St. 95814. No phone calls. EOE/AA employer.

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Love seat, Wmns mtn bike, new sewing mach. 453-1907

For Rent

OFFICE FOR RENT Private office in Downtown Victorian, $450/mo. with all services, law library/conference room. Congenial environment, non-smoker. Call 447-7255.

One bedroom house for single person only. N.H. area $275 first and last and security, total $725 to move in. Chain-link fenced secure gate and small yard. Eve 344-5325

1br townhouse, Madison & I 80, fireplace in bdrm, washer dryer, dishwasher, refrig, patio, pool. $400/m, Tom, 334-6641

Very large and elegant studio in remodeled downtown historic bldg. Central A/H, custom paint and carpet. New appl, $335. 395-8052

Miscellaneous

The Whole Gay Catalog: literature, videos, music, gifts. Send $2, Lambda Rising, Dept 117, 1625 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009-1013.

Did you plant too much in your garden? Drop by the AIDS Foundation and donate your extra food. 448-AIDS

Roommates

M share nice So. Area 3bd, 2ba home. $250/mo and ½ util. 424-4310

Wanted: share rental for two reliable women. Prefere large house, at least two bedrooms, with garage. Existing situation OK, need by Sep 1, call 971-4765.

Modern 2 bedrm apt, 14th and G. Non-smoker, $260. Ernie, 443-1231.

AIDS-Survivor seeks same to share F.O. home, garden, pets, chores. 988-5012

Share apt. Gregory. 443-4173

Female, own bath, all amm. Pool, etc. Non-smoker, $255 dep neg. ½ util. 361-9502, R.C. by freeway.

F or M share my 3bd, 2ba. Put area. No drugs, 372-4692.

Share 2bd house McKinley Pk. 453-1907.

GWM over 30 seeks same to share 3bdrm, 2ba hm, Rosemont area. No drugs. 366-0320 eves avl 8/1.

GM or F to share 2bd apt next to CSUS and bike trail, $237, $100 dep., John 921-9928. ASAP

GM. young, prof., seeks same to share 2bd/2bth apt. Carmichael area. Smoke ok. $200 and ½ util. Must be emp and serious. 488-0322.

Share 2bdrm home, laundry, lg yd. Woman only. 372-8204.

Available 8/1 3blks to Tahoe Park Area. Kitchen, laundry priv. Responsible, working, female only. $200 and ⅓ util. 451-9018.

M or F share house with cottage, washer, dryer, AC, yard, barbecue. Land Park area. $300 includes utilities. 441-6397 before 5 p.m.

2br home E. Sac. share w/owner. Private yard, pool privs, dog ok $450 (includes util) 456-1610 Mike

Personals-Men

Political Writer wanted to cover the Capitol and City Hall. Call MGW, 441-6397.

I want a top man/master. Earl 443-4173.

Experienced reporters/photographers/editors wanted for this paper. 441-NEWS.

PWA, handsome, seeks same for lunches, part-time companionship. 444-7059

BiWM 47, hairy 5'9", 180 lbs, fit, exercise, blue eyes, br hair, safe, looking for same, masculine. Send picture and letter to Lance. 862 Clark Ave. Yuba City, CA 95991.

GWM youthfull 30s, good looking, clean, slim, professional, mature, smoker, no drugs, not into bar scene, loves animals, outdoors, movies, dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeks companionship with same. Please include photo with letter. Write box 5 C/O MGW, 1400 S St. Suite 100, 95814.

Personals-Women

AD OF THE MONTH

GF, TIRED OF WEEKEND TRIPS ALONE. COME SHARE SAME. WRITE C/O MGW BOX 6, 1400 S ST. SUITE 100, SAC 95814. exp. 9/87

Physically active, non-smoker, vegetarian, golf nut, seeking female soul-mate. Golf, friendship, roommate, romance or all of the above. If you are 40 to 50 but not old write: C/O MGW BOX 4, 1400 S Street, Suite 100, Sac 95814. Please send photo.

GWF is interested in drugless other women 27-37 for quiet time, adventures in life. 372-4692. ex11/87

GWF seeks nice feminine middle-aged lady for friendship or ??. Phone and photo gets quick reply. Write Box 7 MGW 1400 S St. Suite 100, 95814.

GWF seeks same for fun times and closeness. Write Box 8 MGW 1400 S Street Suite 100, 95814.

Myself and Granddaughter need a ride to the Women's Music Festival on September 3. Willing to share expenses. Desperately, Fran Schwartz, 2406 G St No. B Sac. 95816, 448-0455.

Wanted

MGW needs volunteers in office and Political writers with opinions — 441-NEWS.

GWF prof, healthy, 30-35 attr., to share parenting via art. insem, with GWM, prof, healthy. Write POB 161886 Sac. 95816 W. Pic.

Will teach right person to invest in Real Estate, with little or no money down. Serious only 332-4476.

Paper wanted. 8½ by 11, white or colored. 441-6397

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Call Linda at 441-NEWS

MGW ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Center

- *LAMBDA COMMUNITY CENTER*— 1931 L St At 20th — 10 a.m. — 6 p.m. daily. Mon and Tues. evenings 7 a.m. — 9 p.m. and Friday evenings from 8:30 to midnight. 442-0185. Info Line — 447-5755.

Media

- *MGW NEWSPAPER*—1400 'S' St., Suite 100, 95814. 441-NEWS (9-5, weekdays).
- *NATIONAL GAY NETWORK*—415-664-7010.
- *SAN FRANCISCO BEAT*—415-552-1312.

Political/Legal

- *ASSEMBLYMAN LLOYD CONNELLY*—2705 'K' St., Ste. 6,95816. Alison Anderson is liaison, 443-1183.
- *ASSEMBLYMAN PHIL ISENBERG*—1215 -15th St., Ste. 102, 95814. Connie Damant is liaison, 324-4677.
- *HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION*—2131 Capitol Ave., Suite 206, 95816. 4th Wed., 6:30pm, City Hall 444-6903.
- *RIVER CITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB*—Box 161958, 95816. Meets 3rd Mon. at Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St,, Doug Brown, Pres. 447-7281
- *SAC. NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS*—3rd Tues, 5:30pm open, meeting. 2224 J St. Lioness Books 965-9115.

Religion

- *AFFIRMATION* United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, Ellie, Jeanne, 489-2340
- *AFFIRMATION*— Gay and Leabian Mormons, Stan 448-5616.
- *AHAVAT TZION*— Jewish group, 2nd Fri. 7:30pm1931 L St, Brian, 443-1765.
- *CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV*—Box 5640, SF 94101
- *DIGNITY*—Box 161765, 95816. (Catholic) MASS & MEETING, 2nd Sun., 3pm, St. Francis Chapel, 26th & 'K', 638-8344
- *EMERGENCE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS.*— Every Fri. 7:30 p.m. (415) 485-1881
- *LATTER-DAY SAINT*— Every Sun. 1 p.m., Lambda Center, 1931 L St., 447-5755
- *METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH* —2741-34th St., Box 20125, 95820. WORSHIP SERVICES, Sun., 8 a.m — 10:15 a.m. and Sunday Eve. 5:45p.m. 454-4762 or 381-7670
- *METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHRUCH OF THE SIERRAS*— 120 Thome St., Reno, Nev. 89501. Services, Sun 12:30 pm WRAP Group, 1st & 3rd Mons. 7:30 pm Evening Service, 1st, 3rd Suns., 7:30 Rev. Don Magill-Knitig, 701/348-7377.
- *LUTHERANS CONCERNED/SACRAMENTO*— P.O Box 188891, Sac 85818, 447-3625
- *PRESBYTERIAN GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP*— Saturday May 2, 5-9 p.m. Merrill & Muriel Follansbee, 443-5710.
- *S.D.A. KINSHIP SACRAMENTO*— (Seventh-day Adventists) Potluck and fellowship, 485-1694, 455-8940. For brochure, Box 340, Carm. 95609.
- *SIERRA OAKS NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH*—Sun. 10am, Lambda Comm. Center, 1931 L St., Rev. Pat Warriner, 372-3705

Miscellaneous

- *AIDS FOUNDATION*—Sac Chapter, 1900 "K" St., Suite 201. AIDS info.,referrals, education, counseling. 916-448-AIDS.
- *ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS (ACA)*— Sat. 12:30-2pm. No smoking 2741 34th (MCC Church) 448-1598
- *ACROPOLIS Computer Service for Men*— 4620 Hazel Ave. F.O. 95628, 300/1200/2400, 8/N/1, Will, Robert, 967-5817
- *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*—NORTH HALL GROUP at MCC, 2741-34th St. 443-8138. Mon; 8 p.m. closed., Tues; 6 p.m. closed Woman's, 8 p.m. Beginners. Weds; 8 p.m. open Step Study, Thurs; 8 p.m. open non-smoking, Fri; 8 p.m. open, (last Fri, Birthday Night). Sat; 8 p.m. open, Sun; 6 p.m. open Men's, 8 p.m. open.
- *BARBARY COAST BOATING CLUB*—Sac Delta, SF Bay. 511 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. c-167, Suite 7, Greenbrae, CA 94904
- *CAPITAL CITY SQUARE DANCE CLUB*—Beginners: Wed., 7-9:30p.m., Mark Twain School, 4914 58th St. Mainstream/Advanced: Tue., 7-9:30p.m., David Lubin School, 3535 M St., Joel, 967-0133.
- *DISCOVER SACRAMENTO HOTLINE*— 449-5566.
- *GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF SAC*—social/support group, basically CSUS students, but open to others, Michael 451-5725
- *GAYLA SINGLES GROUP*—Tues., 7:30pm, Downstairs Social Hall, MCC 2741 34th St., 454-4762.
- *G.G.N.I.E.*—Box 160636, 95851. 1st Tue., Faces, 7:30pm. Last Tues., Bd. Mtg. 448-7798.
- *KIDS OF ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE ADULTS (K.O.A.L.A.)*— Barbara 971-9320
- *LAVENDER ROOTS*—Genealogy Club. Thurs. 7pm, Genealogy Room, Carmichael Branch Library, Scott 483-0626.
- *MARCH ON WASHINGTON*—Sacramento March Committee, P.O. Box 188458 Sacramento, CA 95818. Contact Gery Gomez for meeting dates and times, 447-1111.
- *OUTDOOR ADVENTURES* of Sac., Monthly potluck/meeting. 1st Thurs. Joe 739-8132, or Ted 454-1412
- *PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS &GAYS*—555 Vallombrosa, #73, Chico. 3rd Sun., 1pm. 891-5718.
- *PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS*—Freemont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson H St., 3rd Tues. 7:30pm, Merrill Follansbee, 444-9510 or Box 660955, Sac. 95866.
- *PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP*— 655 University Ave. Suite 115. 725-1383.
- *PILLARS*—social group, primarily men, alternating Friday evenings. Larry Hoover, 753-0424. 6:30 pm
- *RAZA DEL AMBIENTE*—Support/social group. Xavier,1-756-1942
- *RIVER CITY BOWLERS*—Sun., 6pm Land Park Bowl, 5850 Freeport Blvd. & Fri. 6:15pm Birdcage Lanes, 6151 Sunrise Blvd., Cit. Hts., Mike Bogumill, 485-0121
- *RIVER CITY CYCLISTS*—1008 10th St., Suite 128, 95814, 381-3380 Jacques
- *RIVER CITY FAMILY*—Social group for men & women. 485-9144.
- *SAC ATHLETIC GAMES ASSOC. (SAGA II)*—Board meeting quarterly, 1st Thurs. at 7pm. Contact 443-6440 for further information.

SAGA III COORDINATORS:
Basketball (w) 455-4473
Basketball (m) 455-4991

Deadline for the September issue is August 15

Billiards (w) 753-5488
Billiards (m) 372-6404
Bowling (w) 457-9316
Bowling (m) 485-0121 or 635-1535
Canoeing (m/w) 381-3380
Cycling (m/w) 381-3380
Golf (m/w) 443-6440 or 442-8879
Marathon 443-6440
Physique 427-2688 or 924-0971
Powerlifting (m/w) 453-9486
Racquetball (m/w) 457-4943
Soccer 443-6440
Softball (w) 929-2873
Softball (m) 451-5996
Swimming (w) 454-3142
Swimming (m) 442-4340
Tennis (m/w) 446-2191
Track & Field (m/w) 455-0986
Triathlon (m/w) 381-3380
Volleyball (w) 929-4346
Volleyball (m) 447-0901 or 445-3753
Wrestling (m) 445-8952

- *GAY FATHERS OF SAC*—2nd Sun. potluck/discussion, 456-3237
- *LAMBDA COMMUNITY FUND* —Box 163654, 95816. Jerry 381-3115. 442-0185
- *LESBIAN/GAY HEALTH POFESSIONALS*—441-2210.
- *PEACE CENTER*—1917A-16th St., 446-0787.
- *QUAD*— Bisexual Family-oriented society. Box 660664, Sac 95866
- *SPEAKERS BUREAU*— Joe Uhrig 383-1283, Paulette Jacobson 441-5514.
- *VALLEY KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INC.*—Box 8163, 95816.
- *YOUTH CRISIS LINE*— Mon-Fri 3-9 p.m. EST at 800/221-7044. NGTF, 80 5th Ave., NY 1001.
- *YOUTH GROUP*— "Friday Night at the Center" Coffee House for young people. Gay Community Center, 1931 L St. 442-0185.

Student

These student groups usually get together when classes are in session.

- *GAYS & LESBIANS AT ARC*— Thurs 7 p.m. Mark or Michell thru Dr. Johns 484-8340
- *CHICO STATE GAY/LESBIAN UNION*—CSU Chico, 95926
- *GAYS & LESBIANS AT DAVIS* 433 Russell Blvd., Davis 95616 753-2090 (24 hr. recording) 753-2195 during office hours.
- *McGEORGE LAMBDA LAW STUDENTS ASSN.*—451-7394 or 457-3507
- *YUBA COLLEGE GAY PEOPLE'S UNION*— Yuba College, Marysville. Wed., Noon, Room 121A. 1-673-5377
- *SCC WOMEN'S ACTION COMMITTEE*— Tues, noon, Business Bldg. Room B-236, 447-3865.

Women

- *CAMPING WOMEN*—Sac Chapter, Box 1341, Placerville, Ca. 95667, Audrey Saker, 1-677-1544.
- *CSUS WOMEN'S CENTER*—6000 'J' St., 95819. 278-7388.
- *DAVIS WOMEN'S READING CIRCLE*—Meets 2nd and 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm., Christine 322-4347 or 758-2875.
- *GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF SAC*— social/support group basically CSUS students, but open to others. Michael 451-5725.
- *LEATHER AND LACE*—Motorcycle Club. June, Karin, 457-8458.
- *LESBIANS FOR SOBRIETY*—Support group for women, 7:30p.m., Tues. Betty, 453-0791, Women's Stress Alternatives, 448-2951.
- *LESBIAN RIGHTS PROJECT*—1370 Mission St., SF 94103. Public interest law firm.
- *LES BIENS: WOMEN PREFERRING WOMEN*—Women's support group, Fairfield. (707)448-1010(eve). Box 73, Fairfield 94533.
- *LESBIAN CRISIS LINE*— Mon-Fri 3-9 p.m. EST at 1-800-221-7044.

444-6441.

- *NAT'L. ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN*—Box 1404, 95807. 3rd Wed., 7pm at 1931 L St. 443-3470.
- *NOW LESBIAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE*—Meets first Wed. 7:30, 331-5036, Kay, Lorraine.
- *NWPC*, 4th Wed. Lioness Books, 2224 J, 6-7pm
- *RAPE CRISIS CENTER*— 447-3223 office, 447-RAPE crisis line, 1831 I St. 95814.
- *SAC PULSE*— Women's Card Group, Gloria 922-4286.
- *SAC AREA CAREER WOMEN'S NETWORK* Dinner Meetings 3rd Friday 6:30-9:30, 362-3455
- *SAC WOMEN'S CENTER*—Lioness Books, 2224 'J' St., 442-4657.
- *SACRAMENTO WOMEN'S CHORUS*— Mon. 5:30-7 p.m. Billie, 451-7614, Sandy 487-3968.
- *SNOW WHITE CHAMPAGNE BALL*— December party for women. To be on mailing list write Linda Birner, 1400 'S' Street, Suite 100, 95814.
- *W.E.A.V.E. BATTERED LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP*—Every Mon. 6-8pm. 1606 H St. 448-2321.
- *WOMANKIND HEALTH CLINIC*—2720 Capitol Ave., Ste.105, Basic GYN care, call for appt. 448-KIND.
- *WOMEN'S HEALTH RESOURCE* of Sutter Community Hospital, 733-3000
- *WOMEN'S STRESS ALTERNATIVES — 448-2951*
- *WOMOTION*—Bicycle club for women, Lori, 455-1983
- *WOMEN WITH CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP*— 971-9320
- *YOLO COUNTY NOW LESBIAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE*—4th Wed. 7:30pm, 756-2541.
- *YWCA*—1122-17th St., 95814. 442-4741

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Growin' Up Gay

by JOYCE BRIGHT

I remember being twenty-two and sitting in my parent's ratan-furnished living room in Indonesia. Several double gin and tonics drifting through my brain, it was time to drop "the news" on my folks. So...I let drop with ever so much sophistication that I was...bisexual. I meant by this half-truth to prevent my father from coming back with the all-you-need-is-the-right-man argument. Hey, I was cool or at least pretended to be. They, however, were not impressed.

We commenced a long battle. I needed to punish them for their lack of intelligence, acceptance and all-around parenting skills. They needed constantly to defend their morality and values by letting me know how wrong mine were. I honestly don't know how we ever managed to have any fun together or enjoy each other's company. At times I was convinced it was parents, not lover, that God intended as a test of faith.

They tolerated my first lover with a pained expression in their eyes. In my mid-twenties when I was getting together with another woman, Mother gave us a shower. Presents to set up housekeeping. Nine years later when I was breaking up, Mother said, "Now tell me the truth. You just stayed with Judy all these years to spite us, right?"

In agony over this break-up, I lost thirty pounds and moved into my parent's house. I was never going to love again, so what difference did it make? Four months later I was out-and-about, coming in late if I came in at all. I remember leaving one night when Mother asked if I had remembered to pack my pajamas. Mother is never sarcastic. Her question was a kindly reminder. Dad was more pointed several days later when he commented, "You're worse then a Marine on a two day pass." I tried to explain that all was not as it appeared. I stayed out all night...talking.

My parents paid for drunk driving tickets. Their house was my home, open to my friends. During times of great personal tragedy, they were always available to me, my mother with tears in her eyes, sharing my grief. Maybe feeling her own. My father never turned down my request for anything. Yet I never felt their approval.

Over Christmas dinner this past year, Dad and I were at it again. He was speaking of the instability of gay relationships. I was trying to explain why the gay lifestyle is not stable — social ostracism, internal oppression, that sort of thing. Then he dropped a bomb. "I have never known you to be happy," he said. I was shocked by the simple truth of it! I said, "But, Dad I'm one of the happiest people I know!"

The truth is, I inflicted all the agony of my life on my folks. I made them responsible for all the bad stuff. Maybe I was punishing them for not accepting me. Maybe I was thinking that if I showed them how hard I struggled, they would take pity and approve of me. Or maybe in some child-like way I thought if I showed them my happiness, they would take it all away from me because they didn't approve. Voodoo. The power of parents.

Some battles aren't worth fighting. But the relationship between parents and children is so special and so mysterious, it is worth the struggle. In that relationship is manifest all the great insights literature and human history writes on a personal scale.

It has taken me these many years to realize that yes, approval is the greatest gift we can give each other. But approval is possible only to the extent that my education and experience allows me the clarity to see things whole. Given the general course of human events one life time is not enough to gain this knowledge.

To compensate for human retardation, the Universe provides love, not approval. Love is blind, It accepts without approval. It stays when approval goes. It argues. It pouts. It tells a lot of lies, possibly because love is too complex to embrace only one truth. Possibly simple truths are boring . I don't know.

My father came over the other day and cleaned my car battery for me. We sat in the kitchen and shared a glass of ice water. We talked religion and politics. Same old stuff. But it felt very different for me. I was comfortable.

My parents have taught me family. Neither their acceptance nor approval matters any longer. But the love they gave me allows me to love others and be touched by others. The love they give me daily lends me courage for any future, imparts warmth for any night. In the ledgerbook of deeds well done, they have been good and faithful parents. I am grateful.

Happy birthday, Mom □

Pillars
From pg. 1

become introduced to a wide variety of Sacramento's gay life.

Pillars has also generated positive regard for the gay and lesbian community among straight businesses. Everywhere the group has gone the pattern has been the same: a nervous staff and management comes to appreciate the well-behaved and generous clientele.

"Of course," teases Hoover, winking slyly, "we do like to have our fun..." Fun for Pillars' "members" has been as diverse as the group, which counts among its regulars college students, state workers, professionals, and the happily retired. Regular events include the annual Christmas party, complete with caroling (and once with a strip-tease Santa), Straight Night (where non-gay friends and family are welcomed and recognized for their support), and monthly acknowledgement of anniversaries (for couples in attendance and birthdays, at least for those who still admit to having such.

Naturally, the planning and energy required to support an active group depends on a loyal corps of volunteers. One such group manages to call a phone list numbering in the hundreds every two weeks to update previous attendees on the next meeting and takes reservations. Another group assumes the role of the Pillars Cabinet, and meets to organize the special events, manage logistical details with hotels and entertainers, and perform administrative chores.

From Pillars' inception, Larry Hoover spearheaded the Cabinet; with increasing commitments to his family of two daughters, a "special someone," and involvements with the Men's Chorus and RCDC, Hoover has only recently relinquished his central role with the group. Is he out of the Pillars picture altogether? "Never!" he assures.

And, with apparent intention of letting him know how appreciated he is, the upcoming Fifth Anniversary Party will include a special presentation and acknowledgement of Larry's contributions. "We'll

Pillar's Fifth Anniversary Party is open to everyone, but reservations are required by August 26, and can be made by calling (916) 455-1771 and leaving a name and number in the group. Dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m., and is priced at $12 per person, including tax and gratuity. (Because contractual commitments are made based on the reservation count, please be sure to cancel 24 hours in advance if you will be unable to attend.) □

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